

# Report from the HMM Religious Education Committee 2010-2011

**Members of the Committee, 2009-2010:** Nancy Engle, Mary Anne Gaffney, Linda Lotz, Meg Patterson, Kitty Taylor Mizuno, John Sheffield, Michele Tarter, and Elena Lahr-Vivaz.

**In 2011-12,** the following members will continue on the Committee: Linda Lotz, Kitty Taylor Mizuno, Michele Tarter, and Elena Lahr-Vivaz. Two additional names have been recommended by Nominating Committee: David Austin and Bill Morad. David will assume the role of REC Clerk, and Linda will act as recording clerk.

## Children and Youth First Day Programming

Programming for children and youth continued using the “one room” approach for a total of # children of primary school age, and # older youth, although actual attendance on any one Sunday varied greatly.

We are very grateful to the following people who acted as leaders/teachers, assistants and supporters for the children’s programming over the past year including: *Mary Anne Gaffney, Ruth Podolin, Kathy Donch, Rose Ketterer, Jake McLaughlin, Deedy Roberts, Inspira Williams, Judy Barnes, Meg Patterson, Nancy Engle, Christian White, Patience Dodgson, Stephanie Gindele, Kitty Taylor Mizuno.*

Programming was a bit scattered this year, with each teacher developing a program theme – bringing in music, story books, and other activities.

REC undertook several activities in order to provide a framework to assure key topics would be addressed for the children, and to guide and assist and support teachers/leaders. Resources provided by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) were very helpful.

- Greta Rech, a PYM staff member, led a discussion on children’s programming and shared examples of how other meetings organize their programming.
- Five members from Haddonfield Meeting - David Austin, Mary Anne Gaffney, Linda Lotz, Ruth Podolin, Elena Lehr-Vivaz attended a one day program held by PYM entitled “We Can Do It” . This workshop was specifically geared for parents, teachers, and other meeting members who wanted to improve religious education programming for children and youth. We learned a lot that day, such as we are NOT the only meeting struggling to provide religious education for our younger members. Participants left the workshop with resources, ideas for multi-generational activities, and a stronger foundation for the work ahead.
- After debriefing on the PYM session, the REC approved themes for the next four years – affecting children, youth and adult programming.

- 2011-12 – Quaker Testimonies
  - 2012-13 – Old Testament
  - 2013-14 – New Testament
  - 2014-15 -- Quaker History
- After reviewing books and curricula available through the PYM Library, Elena and Michele Tartar prepared a framework for next year, focusing on the Quaker Testimonies: simplicity, peace, integrity, equality, and stewardship. For each testimony, the concept will be introduced and addressed in a story; arts and/or crafts and an intergenerational activity will also be offered. Michele and Elena’s framework was warmly received by the committee and later teachers and parents during the May Covered Dish.

This year, Christian White will receive a Teen Bible, and xxx will receive a copy of Faith and Practice.

Religious Education Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped with the Children and Youth First Day programming this year. We also are very grateful for Maria and Iris Alvarado, Megan Gaffney, and Christian White, who watched Teddy Tarter and Hannah Lehr-Vivaz while their mothers attended REC meetings.

## **Adult Education**

Religious Education Committee members agreed to retain the following goals for Adult First Day programming, carried over from the prior year:

1. Promote deeper thinking about our beliefs and our lives
2. Promote sharing with each other – in worship sharing or general discussions
3. Strengthen the Meeting as a community of people.

This year, 21 sessions were offered. Program ideas came primarily from feedback in the questionnaires, suggestions during a Clerk’s meeting, and cards posted on the bulletin board describing activities or approaches used by “Quakers in Action.” Many of the presentations fell into two themes: *Worship* presented by Worship and Ministry Committee, and *Quakers in Action* – in which members of the HMM community and other Quakers talked about a range of issues or approaches used in their daily lives. Five sessions used worship sharing as a way to get one another better while exploring issues on a deeper level. Several intergeneration activities were held as well.

We want to thank the following people who taught or led Adult First Day programs: *Mary Anne Gaffney, Deedy Roberts, Maria Shivers, David Austin, Kitty Taylor Mizuno, Justin Loughry, Ceil McFadden, Mary Noland, Ruth Podolin, Veronica and Karriem Salam, Pam Anderson, Bob and Connie Brookes, Judy Owens. Also: Dereje Wordofa, Elsie McKee, Greta Reich, Kandy Lippincott.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>
September 19	Sharing our Stories with Mary Anne Gaffney (Worship Sharing)
September 26	AFSC activities in Africa with Dereje Wordofa
October 3	Chanting and Singing, with Deedy Roberts (Intergenerational Activity)
October 17	Worship and Ministry, led by Maria Shivers
October 31	One Book, One Yearly Meeting led by David Austin
November 7	One Book, One Yearly Meeting, led by David Austin
November 28	Chanting with Deedy Roberts (Intergenerational Activity)
December 5	Simple Gifts (Intergenerational Activity)
December 19	Christmas Carols
January 2	Queries for the New Year (Worship Sharing)
January 16	Quakers in Action: Camden, with Kitty Taylor Mizuno and Justin Loughery
January 23	Quakers in Action: Women -Mothers of Congo, with Elsie McKee
January 30	Exploring Worship with Bob and Connie Brookes for Worship and Ministry
February 6	Religious Education for Our Children and Youth, with Greta Rech, PYM staff
February 20	Quakers in Action: Quakers and Listening with Ceil McFadden and Mary Noland (Worship Sharing)
March 6	Aging and Spirituality led by Ruth Podolin (Worship Sharing)
March 20	Quakers in Action: Raising our Children with Veronica and Karriem Salam
March 27	Memorial Services and Graveyard presentation with Pam Anderson and Bob Brookes
April 3	Quakers in Action: Worker Justice, with Kitty Taylor Mizuno, Kandy Lippincott, David Austin, and Linda Lotz
April 17	Saying Yes when we mean Yes, and No when we mean NO led by Judy Owens, Maria Shivers, and Linda Lotz, for Worship & Ministry (Worship Sharing)
May 22	Feminism and its Quaker Roots, led by Rose Ketterer (Intergenerational Activity)
June 5	Visit to Paulsdale, the Alice Paul House (Intergenerational Activity)

A questionnaire is currently being circulated to evaluate this year's Adult First Day programs and request suggestions for next year. We would especially appreciate suggestions on how to draw on expertise from within the Meeting and how to increase attendance.

### **Structure Discussions**

As a result of the structures process taking place within Haddonfield Meeting, two activities were undertaken this year which warrant attention:

- a) REC members reviewed a draft mission statement, a description of general activities/responsibilities, and a template for the annual schedule of REC activities. These

documents were submitted to the Structures Committee for consideration along with other committee activities.

- b) Deeper connections with the Library Committee and Worship and Ministry. Arising from some structure discussions, the Religious Education Committee invited representatives from Worship and Ministry and Library Committees to attend REC meetings. Their presence deeply enriched REC discussions and helped to better inform and coordinate the work of these three committees.

We look forward to receiving feedback from the Structures Committee on additional ways to focus and/or improve our work in the future.

### **Looking ahead to the 2011-12 “school year”**

REC will meet several times over the summer to review input from the questionnaires, begin planning Adult and Children’s First Day programming, and schedule leaders/teachers and assistants for the children’s programming in the fall.

Also, over the summer, Mary Anne and Linda Lotz will be stepping down as co-clerks, and helping David Austin transition into this role.

Submitted by

Mary Anne Gaffney and Linda Lotz  
Co-clerks

June, 2011